



# **U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary**

## **F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman**

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### ***News Advisory***

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Contacts: Jeff Lungren/Terry Shawn (Sensenbrenner)  
202-225-2492  
Dena Graziano (Conyers)  
202-226-6888

## **Sensenbrenner and Conyers Introduce Bipartisan Justice Department Reauthorization Bill**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.) and Ranking Member John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.) today introduced bipartisan legislation (H.R. 3402) to reauthorize appropriations for the Justice Department's programs for four years.

Chairman Sensenbrenner commented, "This legislation will play a valuable role in two critical efforts: 1) assisting the Justice Department in carrying out its enormous responsibilities in fighting the war on terror and protecting the American public, and 2) assisting Congress in conducting rigorous oversight of the Department's activities. This legislation reauthorizes the important work begun with the Violence Against Women Act, whose authorization is scheduled to expire at the end of September. I'm pleased to introduce this legislation with the support of Ranking Member Conyers and pledge to continue our bipartisan cooperation in working to get this legislation enacted."

Ranking Member Conyers stated, "I'm happy to cosponsor and support legislation that reauthorizes and makes important improvements to a bill I have been working on since 1994, the Violence Against Women Act. Along with providing the Department of Justice the tools it needs to carry out its important functions, this legislation makes great strides in the fight to end violence against women. In this bill, we not only reauthorize the many important programs that have been in place since 1994, we also take on important new initiatives, such as focusing on prevention programs for children who witness violence in the home and helping immigrants subjected to domestic violence secure their right to stay in the country and seek shelter from their batterers. Also important, we have tried to

recognize the obstacles that some racial and ethnic minorities face in the mainstream system and have included language that allows programs to target communities of color. This legislation goes a long way in helping victims of violence and I look forward to continuing to work in a bipartisan manner on this important issue.”

**Brief Highlights of H.R. 3402**

- Authorizes appropriations for the Department of Justice for fiscal years 2006 through 2009
- Implements reforms to the Department’s grant programs
- Makes miscellaneous changes to Department authorizing statutes
- Creates a privacy officer at the Justice Department who must report to Congress on alleged privacy violations by the Department
- Establishes an office to ensure grant money is used appropriately and to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in grant programs
- Reauthorizes core programs from the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and 2000 and makes improvements to those grant programs to enhance our ability to combat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking
- Reauthorizes the STOP program, which provides state formula grants that help fund collaborative efforts between police and prosecutors and victim services providers
- Reauthorizes grants with goal of police officers aggressively arresting abusers who commit acts of violence or violate protection orders
- Authorizes new grants to improve training for court officials and law enforcement

This legislation is expected to be marked up by the Judiciary Committee next week.

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